

## **Congregational Opportunities for Short Term Ministry**

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**Church Name: Church of the Crossroads UCC**

**Website (beginning with http:) <https://www.churchofthecrossroadshawaii.org/>**

**Physical Address: 1212 University Ave, Honolulu, HI 96826**

**Mailing Address (if different): same**

**Church Size: 190**

**HCUCC Association: O'ahu**

**Seeking (choose one from each column):**

☐ Interim

☐ Designated Term

☒ Bridge Pastor

☒ Full-Time

☐ Part-Time (One Below)

☐ 1/2 Time

☐ 1/4 Time

**Ministry Description: Please describe in no more than 2,000 words the following four subjects:**

**I. Paragraph One: What is the congregation seeking in an interim, bridge, or designated term pastor?**

Church of the Crossroads is seeking a bridge pastor to carry us from the retirement of our current pastor, at the end of January, through to the call of our next pastor. This is a full-time, temporary position to allow the church to operate smoothly through this transition. We are looking for someone who can plan and lead worship and preach thoughtful and engaging sermons to a theologically and socially progressive congregation. They would also plan and lead special services for liturgical holidays, and as needed, funerals and weddings. We have a growing

community of families and an active, widespread, global online community. We would expect this person to understand this broad constituency and engage with these members. This person would also do pastoral care including visiting sick and elderly. They would be expected to give administrative leadership, as needed, alongside laity and staff.

**II. Paragraph Two: What is the congregation offering in terms of salary, housing, and/or benefits?**

This is a full time position, and we are offering a salary in alignment with the UCC terms and conditions which is based on experience and educational level. The total package will also include a housing allowance.

**III. Paragraph Three: Describe your church, both the buildings and the congregation.**

The church buildings, which are on the National Registry, are comprised of a beautiful sanctuary built in the early 1930's in art deco style merging Asian and Hawaiian elements; an office block; various teaching rooms; a large community hall with a commercial kitchen and a small stage; and a central courtyard and grounds planted with Hawaiian plants. Additional classroom spaces are rented to a pre-school. The sanctuary itself is light and airy and includes 2 small offices and open plan side wings. There is no air conditioning so we depend on open louvered windows and fans for ventilation.

The congregation is composed of people who live in the local area, folks who travel from all areas of the island, and an online contingent drawn from members of the church diaspora; local members who are housebound; and folks who dial in from other national and global locations. The congregation is weighted to older generations, but there is also a group of committed and enthusiastic young people, and a significant number of families with children, all of whom we are very eager to support.

The church has been described as 'a small church who think they are a big church', and this is evidenced in the commitment of the church's people to action for social justice. We have a high-profile presence on the island and our members run non-profits, write letters to congress, support Pride, cook for IHS, and more. There is an interest in learning and reflecting on how the religious, spiritual, communal, and ethical can be worked and lived out in today's world. We take pride in our church's history of inclusivity.

Words used by the congregation to describe the congregation: inclusive, welcoming, supportive, faithful, beautiful, genuine, caring, and vibrant. Phrases used by the congregation to describe our life of worship: 'beautifully complex'; 'caring and doing'; and 'open and affirming'. We would like to continue to look outwards and avoid becoming inward looking and complacent.

#### **IV. Paragraph Four: Describe your community.**

The church is situated in Oahu's Moili'ili neighborhood, a middle class residential and light commercial area just south of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. However, the church community reaches far beyond its geographic locale due to a number of reasons. First is the church's proximity to the University of Hawaii and frequent co-programming with the university, making the church a faith hub for the academic and intellectual community of Oahu. Also, the church's commitment to socially progressive issues has made it a magnet attracting similarly minded people from across Oahu. Furthermore, due to the church's enduring history, some people who spent their youth in the church are now adults living on different parts of Oahu and commute to the church. Additionally, some new families, attracted to the values of the church, faithfully attend the church even though they may live on other areas of the island due to housing or educational needs. Finally, an online community, called the Cosmic Bamboo Hui, which was formed during the COVID pandemic has now grown into a global, active, and fully integrated part of the church community, not just a Sunday worship zoom add-on.

Racially, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically, the church is represented by people with personal or family roots from various Pacific Island, Asian, African and European backgrounds. Economically, the church is also diversely represented, including individuals who are currently or formerly houseless, individuals on limited fixed incomes, and individuals of middle and upper middle-class situations. The church's open and affirming theological stance makes it a safe home for people with a range of gender and sexual expressions. These wide-ranging forms of diversity, whose originating ethos was central to the founding of the church, are critical assets of the cultural richness of the community.

A suitable pastoral candidate would recognize our range of constituents and aim to serve the needs of our broad demographics.